GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:362
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2016
Literacy amongst Tribals
Singh Shri Uday Pratap

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the literacy rate and percentage of literacy amongst tribal communities in the country, State / UT- wise;

(b) whether the Government has ascertained the factors affecting expansion of education in tribal dominated areas and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated / proposed for improving educational standards and facilities in the tribal dominated districts and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JUAL ORAM)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to LokSabha Starred Question No. *362 for answer on 12.12.2016 asked by Shri UDAY PRATAP SINGH, MP, regarding 'Literacy amongst Tribals'.

(a): LiteracyRate of Scheduled Tribes in the country, State / UT- wise are given at Annexure 1.

(b): Tribals in most parts of the country live in hilly and forest areas with poor roads and other means of communication. They live mostly in scattered homesteads rather than villages or mohallas, which makes it difficult to provide access to schools within short distance for all students. Teachers from nontribal areas are often reluctant to work in schools in tribal areas because of distance from towns, lack of housing and other amenities. Teachers from other areas are also not familiar with local tribal languages and dialects and are not able to communicate effectively with tribal students, particularly in lower primary sections. Tribal students face difficulties in following prescribed text books which are not in their mother tongue, particularly when the content is not appropriately designed for them. Enrolment rate of tribal children is lower, and drop out rate is higher than others.

(c): Details of initiatives and schemes of Government of India for improving educational standards and facilities for Scheduled Tribes are given at Annexure 2.

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Annexure1 referred to part (a) of LokSabhaStarred Question No. *362 for 12.12.2016

All India and State / UT-wise Scheduled Tribe (ST)Literacy Rate

Sl No	State / UT	ST Literacy Rate
	INDIA	59.0
1	Jammu & Kashmir	50.6
2	Himachal Pradesh	73.6
3	Uttarakhand	73.9
4	Rajasthan	52.8
5	Uttar Pradesh	55.7
6	Bihar	51.1
7	Sikkim	79.7
8	Arunachal Pradesh	64.6
9	Nagaland	80.0
10	Manipur	72.6
11	Mizoram	91.5
12	Tripura	79.1
13	Meghalaya	74.5
14	Assam	72.1

15 West Bengal 57.9
16 Jharkhand 57.1
17 Odisha 52.2
18 Chhattisgarh 59.1
19 Madhya Pradesh 50.6
20 Gujarat 62.5
21 Daman & Diu 78.8
22 Dadra & Nagar Haveli 61.9
23 Maharashtra 65.7
24 Telengana 49.5
25 Andhra Pradesh 48.8
26 Karnataka 62.1
27 Goa 79.1
28 Lakshadweep 91.7
29 Kerala 75.8
30 Tamil Nadu 54.3
31 Andaman& Nicobar Islands 75.6
Note: No Notified Scheduled Tribes in Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, NCT of Delhi and Puducherry
Source: Census 2011

Annexure 2referred to part (c) of LokSabha Starred Question No. *362 for 12.12.2016
I.Initiatives and Schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(i) Scheme of Girls & Boys Hostels for STs: Under the scheme, Central assistance is given to States / UTs / Universities for construction of new hostel buildings and / or extension of existing hostels. State Governments are eligible for 100% central share for construction of all Girls' hostel and also for construction of Boys' hostel in naxal affected areas. The funding pattern for other Boys' Hostel to State Governments is on 50:50 basis.

(ii) Scheme of Ashram Schools in Tribal Areas: The objective of the scheme is to provide residential schools for STs to increase the literacy rate among the tribal students and to bring them at par with other population of the country. Under the scheme, State Governments are eligible for 100% central share for construction of all Girls' Ashram Schools and also for construction of Boys' Ashram Schools in naxal affected areas. The funding pattern for the other Boys' Ashram Schools is on 50:50 basis.

(iii) Scheme for Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts: The scheme aims to bridge the gap in literacy levels between the general female population and tribal women, through facilitating 100% enrolment of tribal girls in the identified Districts or Blocks, more particularly in naxal affected areas and in areas inhabited by Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), and reducing drop-outs at the elementary level by creating the required ambience for education. Improvement of the literacy rate of tribal girls is essential to enable them to participate effectively in and benefit from, socio-economic development.

(iv) Ministry releases funds under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for setting up of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs). The objective of setting up these schools is to provide quality education to tribal students from Class VI to Class XII.This may eventually improve the academic performance and pursuit for higher education for them and would lead to higher employability and sustainable income.

(v) In addition to above, to maximize retention of ST students within various stages of school education and promoting higher learning, monetary incentives are provided by Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the form of scholarships such as Pre Matric Scholarship, Post Matric Scholarship, National Overseas Scholarship, Scholarship for Top Class Education and Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST students.
(vi) As per Ministry of Tribal Affairs' Guidelines for Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and grants under article 275(1) of the Constitution, in intra-State sectoral activities prioritization and allocation, 40% to 50% of funds are to be allocated for education.

II.Initiatives and Schemes of Ministry of Human Resource Development
(1) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of SarvaShikshaAbhiyan (SSA), districts with high concentration of population of Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been identified as Special Focus Districts (SFDs). The criteria for identifying the SFDs is of 25% and above population of STs.

(2) For the year 2016-17, an amount of Rs. 998433.32 lakh has been allocated for ST concentrated SFDs under SSA, which is 13% of the total allocation of SSA. Besides, Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalayas (KGBVs) have played an important role in furthering the goal of girls' education in educationally backward blocks of the country. A total of 508 KGBVs, which are upper primary residential schools for girls, have been sanctioned in the ST concentrated SFDs, out of which 507 are operational. In ST concentrated SFDs, 147 residential schools and 190 hostels have been sanctioned.

(3) SSA also supports provisions for textbooks to all children in Government / local body and Government aided schools andtwo sets of uniform to all girls, Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) children and Below Poverty Line (BPL) children, wherever State Governments have incorporated provision of school uniforms as a child entitlement in their State RTE Rules.

(4) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 under Section 29 states that wherever practicable children should be taught in their mother tongue. In the last few years several States have taken initiatives to bridge children from tribal

groups speaking a different language at home to transition to school language.

(5) Teacher training under the SSA has sessions on sensitizing teachers to actively dispel traditional perceptions regarding gender or caste roles, take measures which would help girls, children from disadvantaged groups and weaker sections pursue education which is equitable and free of anxiety. Further, revision of syllabi, textbooks and supplementary learning material are done to incorporate gender and social inclusion dimensions.

(6) In order to improve literacy rate, Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Adult Education and Skill Development is being implemented in rural areas of 410 districts in 26 States and one UT that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent and below as per Census 2001, and including left wing extremism affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rates, with special focus on women, SCs, STs, minorities and other disadvantaged groups. The principal target of the programme is to impart functional literacy to 70 million adults (60 million female) including 8 million STs (6 million female) in the age group of 15 years and beyond. Plan-wise targets are fixed to achieve higher levels of literacy in a phased manner. The present targets are to raise the overall literacy rate of the country to 80 per cent and reduce the gender gap to 10 percentage points by the end of XII Five Year Plan (i.e. 31.07.2017).

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